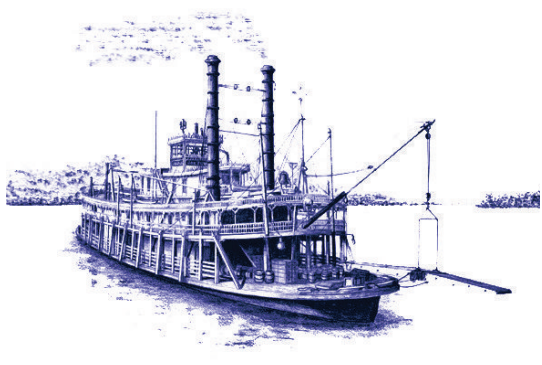


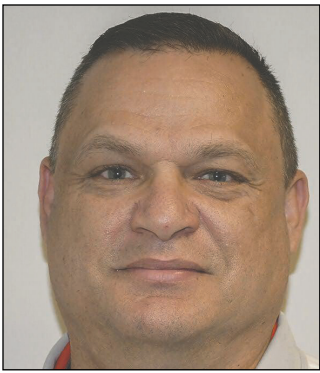


THE MADISON COURIER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025

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SPORTS

MADISON FOOTBALL'S
BENINTENDE RESIGNS
AFTER 2 YEARS ON
JOB
PAGE B1

Redevelopment Commission commits \$280K to ELC

BY BOB DEMAREE

The city of Madison's Redevelopment Commission committed \$280,000 to Madison Consolidated Schools (MCS) for the Madison Early Learning Center (ELC) at its meeting Thursday.

The pledge will cover the remaining amount needed for a \$1 million matching grant from the Bethany Legacy Foundation (BLF). The \$1 million grant is in addition to a \$3 million grant from BLF.

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney voiced his strong support for the Early Learning Center. "I think it's

absolutely critical" for the city of Madison. "On the horizon in a really short period of time, we're going to have capacity issues at our schools ... We've got to be making investments like this."

Given the impact of early learning on a child's future success, Courtney said, "this is a way to change the trajectory of a child's life forever, and that's why I think this is so important ... The city of Madison needs to support this development."

Deputy Mayor Tony Steinhardt III said that in reviewing the Redevelopment Commission's budget for 2026 there will be funding

to provide the remaining \$280,000 needed to provide Madison Consolidated Schools (MCS) with the \$1 million match to BLF, noting that Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown provided the option potentially paying the amount over two years if needed.

Earlier in the meeting, Steinhardt had announced the Redevelopment Commission had received its settlement from the county for the second half of 2025, which is \$1,260,730. For the year, he said the Redevelopment Commission received \$2,578,829, which is \$340,000 more than had been projected.

"We've been working really hard to build capacity for opportunity in our projections, and we've done that by the investments that we've made ...," said Courtney. "We believe that we can make this investment" so that "it's not at the sacrifice of any other opportunity that we are already pursuing. Next year is still going to be a big year for housing, infrastructure and placemaking, and as we proceed with those key initiatives, we've got to build capacity in other areas, and this is a great opportunity for us to partner with the school."

Brown said the total project cost

for the ELC is \$32 million. MCS has taken out a \$28 million bond of which \$25 million will be used on the ELC and \$3 million for other school corporation projects. There are \$5 million additional funds through BLF grants and the matching dollars.

MCS is still short \$2 million of that \$32 million budget which will be partially addressed with cuts in the building project. Initial plans called for 12 preschool rooms but two of them are alternates in the project.

SEE ELC/PAGE A6

Reindeer Games



Bob Demaree

Rhaela Griffis, 2, tells her Christmas wish to Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus during the Hanover Parks Department's second annual Reindeer Games on Friday.



Bob Demaree

Working together to make a snowman are (from left) Harmony Romero, Melody Romero and Madison Lucas on Friday at the Hanover Parks Department's Reindeer Games.



Bob Demaree

Children listen to Santa Claus during the Hanover Parks Department's second annual Reindeer Games on Friday.

Christmas closings set

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Offices at Madison City Hall, including the water office and Brown Gym, will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25 for Christmas. The transfer station will be open Wednesday, Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to noon and closed Thursday, Dec. 25. All offices will re-open for regular business hours Friday, Dec. 26. Wednesday trash and recycling will be collected on schedule, and Thursday trash pickup will be delayed by one day.

Jefferson County offices will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec.

25 for Christmas, and re-open Friday, Dec. 26.

The town of Hanover offices will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, for Christmas, and re-open Friday, Dec. 26.

United States Postal Service offices will be closed Christmas Day, along with no mail delivery.

All Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) branches will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, through Friday, Dec. 26, in observance of the December holiday. Branches will resume regularly scheduled business hours on Saturday, Dec. 27.

HDBR denies application by fellow board member for infill project

BY MARK CAMPBELL

Madison's Historic District Board of Review turned its regulatory focus on one of its own last week when board member Ryan Rodgers sought approval to build a duplex with front facing garages as infill on a lot he owns in an historic section of downtown Madison.

Rodgers, who is also a local contractor, had multiple applications before the board but the one that drew the most consideration was an infill project at 215 West First Street. Rodgers was seeking to build a duplex on the property with garages at the front of the property and entrances set back between the two single car garages.

His project checked all the HDBR's boxes in terms of materials — Hardie or LP smart siding, asphalt shingles, aluminum clad wooden windows and wood look or wood garage doors, some of the issues he has been a stickler on when reviewing applications as a

board member — but his fellow board members unanimously objected to the location of the garages, an essentially unusable "porch" at the garage entrances and how the actual front entrances of the proposed development would be set back and between the garages.

Rodgers said the duplex design he brought before the board was the product of months of deliberation, redesign and consideration by him and his wife, Kelly Rodgers, and was the only design they had found acceptable throughout that process.

"We're trying to have a garage but not lose all of our greenspace," said Rodgers, acknowledging that it was a "modern design" but would be an asset to a neighborhood that has been recovering from blight since they purchased a multiple properties in the area including the proposed site

SEE HDBR/PAGE A3

Weather reprieve provides break for road crew

BY BOB DEMAREE

Below freezing temperatures and snow over the last month has kept the Jefferson County Highway Department busy clearing county roads. County Commissioners commended the job done by Superintendent Jason Copeland and his crew members at Thursday's meeting.

"Winter is early this year," said Copeland, praising the highway crew for its work during the most recent

snowfall Dec. 13-14. "The guys did an outstanding job as usual. They were definitely over every county road as quickly as possible," he said.

With a reprieve in the snow — and brutal cold temperatures — Copeland said the highway department can focus on addressing pot holes.

Warmer weather this week is expected provide highway crews with a break with a high temperature of 64 degrees Fahrenheit on Thursday.

In other business:

- Brian Amick, the county's activist/grant writer, reported that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has determined that land being considered as a future site for a new county animal shelter has been officially deemed as wetlands.

The land is a 20-acre undeveloped portion of the county's 50-acre property on land the county owns where the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Criminal Justice Center is located. Amick

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Rosa Baya
Christopher Cheaney
William Dawson

Aaron Hall
Linda Johnson
Wanda Kloepper
Lyda Martin

Mary Parks
Charles Purvis
Donald Walp Jr.
Deborah Wilkins



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Christmas

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OBITUARIES

Lyda Lee Keslar Martin

Lyda Lee Keslar Martin, age 97, of Madison, IN, entered this life on Aug. 11, 1928, in Dayton, KY. She was the loving daughter of the late Lee B. and Mildred E. Rothfuss Keslar. In 1946, she graduated from Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, KY. On June 21, 1947, she was united in marriage to Arthur "Art" Martin in Fort Thomas, KY. This happy union of 73 years was blessed with three daughters, Robin, Diane, and Melissa. The family moved to Madison, in 1960. Lyda was a homemaker and had worked part time as a clerk at the Madison Police Department, retiring at age 84. She was a charter member of the Resurrection Lutheran Church, where she was active as a Sunday School Teacher, volunteer church secretary, with the women of the church, served on various committees; helped with the youth activities. She enjoyed playing golf and being with her family. Lyda died on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, at her home in Madison, IN.

Lyda will be missed by her loving daughters, Robin L.H. Ferree of Salem, VA, Diane Yoke and her husband Edgar of Indianapolis, IN; her son in law, Steve Allen of Hanover, IN; her grandchildren, Robert Yoke (Anne), Jeffrey Yoke, Amanda Knappe (Garrett), Abigail Lang (Cooper), Sarah Parker (Michael), and Matthew Henrickson; her great grandchildren, Emerson Knappe, Layla Parker, Jack Parker, and Miles Parker; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives; as well as many



dearly loved friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Lee B. Keslar, her mother, Mildred E. Rothfuss Keslar, her husband of 73 years, Arthur "Art" Martin, died July 8, 2020, her daughter, Melissa Allen, died April 15, 2015, her son in law, Ray Ferree, died in 2016, and her sisters, Marcia Sullivan (Frank) and Billie June Engel (Richard).

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, at 11 a.m., by the Rev. Richard Gianzero at the Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1429 Clifty Drive Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1415 North Gate Road in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, from 9 a.m., until the time of service at the Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1429 Clifty Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Resurrection Lutheran Church or Interim Hospice. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover, or at the church. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at www.morgan-nay.com.

Wanda Corman Kloepper

Wanda Corman Kloepper, age 96, of Madison, IN, passed away peacefully on Dec. 17, 2025, at The Jewel Place in Madison, where she had been residing for the past five years. Wanda was born on April 28, 1929, in Kent, IN, and was the daughter of Elmer and Daisy (Sampson) Corman. Wanda grew up in Kent where she spent many wonderful days with family and friends. It was there that she met a boy named Marvin Kloepper at a young age. Time went on and Wanda attended Madison High School where she was a cheerleader and was very active in the Kent United Methodist Church. Soon, she would marry the love of her life, Marvin Kloepper, and they had two daughters, Darlene and Karlene, who meant everything to them. Marvin and Wanda enjoyed watching and helping them grow up to be successful young ladies.

Wanda had a great career at the Jefferson Proving Ground where she worked for many years. One of the many things that they enjoyed doing was going out to dinner often with many great friends. At the end of the day, family meant everything to Wanda, and that's why we are all so grateful to have her in our lives.

Wanda is preceded in death by her father, Elmer Corman; her mother, Daisy (Sampson) Corman; her brother, William Corman; her sisters: Thea Field, Phurdell Field, and Delphia Weatherbee; her son-in-law,



Thomas "Bud" Finnegan, III; and her grandson, Kennedy Wells Rucker.

She is survived by her two daughters: Sonja Darlene Finnegan of Hanover, IN, and Kathy Karlene Perry (Max) of Raleigh, NC; four grandchildren: Thomas "Aaron" Finnegan (Michelle) of Madison, Stephanie Ginn (Darin) of Madison, Max Perry III (Nicole) of Raleigh, and Gregory Perry (Jazmin) of Greenville, SC; seven great grandchildren: Makenzie, Madison, Michelle, Max IV, Leighton, Karter, and Koko; and two great grandchildren: Adaleigh and Axel.

A Celebration of Wanda's life will be held on Monday, Dec. 29, 2025 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., at Lytle Welty Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 117 Holt Drive, Madison. Private interment will take place in Kent Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Kent Cemetery Association or the American Heart Association. Contributions may be made at the Lytle Welty Funeral Home or at www.lytlewelty.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Paul Donald Backe, 75, of Madison, IN, died Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at his home in Madison. Cremation was chosen with no public service to be held. Interment will be in the Springdale Cemetery in downtown Madison. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Rosa Manaog Baya, 84, of Madison, IN, and formerly of the Philipines, died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025, at the Norton King's Daughters' Health in Madison. Cremation was chosen and Rosa will be laid to rest in the Philipippines. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Christopher "Chris" Madison Cheaney, 52, of Louisville, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at Swiss Villa Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Vevay, IN. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home in Vevay, www.haskellandmorrison.com.

William "Bill" C. Dawson, 73, of

Campbellsburg, KY, died Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. Memorial service will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at Heady-Radcliffe Funeral Home in La Grange, KY.

Aaron Christopher Hall, 55, of Austin, IN and formerly of Madison, IN, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at Norton Audubon Hospital in Louisville. Cremation was chosen with a celebration of life to be held July 27, 2026, on his birthday. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison and Hanover, IN, www.morgan-nay.com.

Linda Murl Maiden Johnson, 84, of Carterville, IL, and formerly of Campbellsburg, KY, and Carrollton, KY, died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025, at Memory Care-Manor of Carbondale, IL. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Ransdell Funeral Home in Campbellsburg, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Mary Helen Parks, 85 of Campbellsburg, KY, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2025. Cremation was chosen with no services at this time. The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date. Arrangements by

Prewitts Funeral Home in New Castle, KY, www.prewitts.com.

Charles G. Purvis, 99, of Milton, KY, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at his residence. He was a U.S. Army veteran. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Ransdell Funeral Home in Bedford, KY, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Donald L. Walp Jr., 78, of Deputy, IN, died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025, at Hoosier Health and Living in Brownstown, IN. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, with interment to follow in the Pisgah Cemetery near Deputy, www.morgan-nay.com.

Deborah Sue Williams Wilkins, 75, of Madison, IN, died Friday, Dec. 9, 2025, at the Hosparus Inpatient Unit of Norton Pavilion in Louisville. Cremation was chosen with no services to be held. Burial will take place at a later date in Fairmount Cemetery in Madison. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNNIVERSARIES

Editor's Note: Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Send name, date and number of years (optional) to zelda@madisoncourier.com or call 812-265-3641. Please leave your name and phone

number in case we have followup questions.

BIRTHDAYS
Dec. 24
Luanne McCammon
Dec. 26

Roger Fuhrman
Dec. 27
Rusty Bladen
Terry King
Dec. 28
Betsey Vonderheide
Dec. 29

Martha Harden
Tanya Hess

ANNIVERSARIES
Dec. 29
Steve & Michelle Bibbs - 4

WEATHER

Sunrise: 7:55 a.m.
Sunset: 5:26 p.m.
Temperature: High 50, Low 24, Mean 41.0, Excess 0
Precipitation since last published: .72
Precipitation, December 2025: 1.61
Precipitation, 2025: 56.45
Barometer 30.33, Falling
River Level at Clifty Creek: 425.98 feet, Steady
Forecast: Wednesday Christmas Eve: Cloudy High 57/Low 51; Thursday Christmas Day: Morning showers High 59/Low 54; Friday: Showers High 64/Low 49; Saturday: Mostly Cloudy High 61/Low 52.

LOTTERIES

INDIANA
Hoosier Lotto 9-15-20-27-37-44 (12/20). Estimated Jackpot: \$9 million. Next Drawing (12/24)
Cash Five: 1-14-24-35-45 (12/21)
Cash 4 Life: 15-25-30-40-55 CB: 2 (12/21)
KENTUCKY
Cash Ball: 10-13-27-31 CB: 7 (12/21)
Lucky For Life: 11-24-27-38-46 LB: 15 (12/21)
MEGAMILLIONS: 1-11-27-39-59 MB: 18 (12/19). Next Jackpot: \$100 million. Next Drawing (12/23)
POWERBALL: 4-5-28-52-69 PB: 20, PP 3 (12/20). Next Estimated Jackpot: \$1.6 billion. Next Drawing (12/22)
POWERBALL DOUBLE
PLAY:5-8-19-23-43 PB: 6 (12/20). Next Estimated Jackpot: Up to \$10 million. Next Drawing (12/22)

NEWS OF RECORD

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER LODGINGS. Dec. 18, 2025

Destiny Elizabeth Lee Baker, 32, Patriot, Indiana, on a Jefferson County warrant for probation violation. Bond \$5,000 cash.

Thomas N. Mitchell, 52, Madison, on a Jefferson County bench warrant. Bond \$500 cash.

Dec. 19, 2025

Tyler Andrew Davidson, 26, Salem, Indiana, on a Jefferson County warrant for probation violation. Bond \$1,000 cash.

Shawn Robert Webster, 43, New Washington, on a Jefferson County arrest warrant (assisting a criminal). Bond \$1,500 cash.

Dec. 20, 2025

Michael Wayne Bowen, 37, Columbus, Indiana, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony; Possession of a Syringe, a Level 6 felony; and Visiting a Common Nuisance, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond.

Hannah Paige Jines, 27, Madison, for Possession of Methamphetamine, Trafficking With an Inmate and Felon Possessing, Manufacturing, Transporting, Distributing a Destructive Device, all Level 5 felonies; Neglect of a Dependent, Maintaining a Common Nuisance, Possession of Cocaine or Narcotic Drug and Possession of a Syringe, all Level 6 felonies; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

Robert Eugene McGaughey III, 38, Dupont, Indiana, for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony; Visiting a Common Nuisance-Prior Unrelated Conviction, a Level 5 felony; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

Ernest Vance McKeand Jr., 53, Scottsburg, Indiana, for Violation of Usage Rules on Regulated Explosives, a Level 5 felony

Jennifer L. Rowlett, 54, Madison, for Felon Possessing, Manufacturing, Transporting, Distributing a Destructive Device, a Level 5 felony; Neglect of a Dependent and Maintaining a Common Nuisance, both Level 6 felonies; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. No bond.

Dec. 21, 2025

Autumn Nicole Griffin, 25,

Madison, for Neglect of a Dependent, a Level 6 felony. No bond.

Ashley M. Hand, 44, Madison, for Possession of Cocaine or Narcotic Drug and Possession of a Syringe, both Level 6 felonies; Possession of a Schedule Drug, a Class A misdemeanor; and Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond \$1,000 cash.

Samantha Renee Howard, 27, North Vernon, Indiana, for Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor' and an on an unspecified warrant by Jackson County Indiana. Released on own recognition.

Debra Sheldon, 64, Madison, for Neglect of a Dependent, a Level 6 felony. No bond.

Jennifer Nicole Wells, 41, for Neglect of a Dependent, a Level 6 felony. No bond.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT SENTENCINGS Dec. 17, 2025

Christopher Andrew Hoskins, 37, Madison, revocation of 3 years suspended sentence for probation violation (robbery-bodily injury) to be executed at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 223 days jail served but consecutive to other time suspended in an unrelated case with additional charges pending in Decatur County Indiana.

Melinda Sue Ward, 28, Madison, revocation of 357 days suspended sentence for probation violation (tested positive to alcohol use, failure to report for drug screening) consecutive to 304 days for previously suspended sentence in unrelated causes with credit for 63 days jail served with balance of 398 days suspended to probation.

William Joseph Melton, 63, Madison, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony. Sentenced to 5 years at Indiana Department of Correction, all suspended to probation plus \$789 in fees and court costs.

Kevin Eugene Hopkins, 71, Anderson, Indiana, to an amended charge of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Convicted Felon, a Level 4 felony. Sentenced to 2,555 days at Indiana Depart-

ment of Correction, with 1,460 days suspended to supervised probation and credit for 373 jail served plus \$389 in fees and court costs.

Sarah D. Hicks, 32, Madison, to an amended charge of Obstruction of Justice-Altering record or document. Sentenced to 730 days at Indiana Department of Correction, all suspended to supervised probation to run consecutive to balance of 1,460 days in prior conviction for Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony.

James Matthew Cody Meadows, 39, Lexington, Indiana, for Leaving the Scene of an Accident, a Class B misdemeanor; and Operating a Vehicle Without Ever Receiving a Valid Driver's License, Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 180 days jail on count one and 60 days jail on count two, concurrent, and suspended to supervised probation plus \$389.50 in fees and court costs and restitution in an amount to be decided.

Anthony Harvey Shockey, 64, Peru, Indiana, to an amended charge of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 180 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed, with credit for 142 days jail served plus \$589 in fees and court costs.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS JEFFERSON COUNTY Dec. 18, 2025

Sutherland Construction Inc. to Elvira Lynn Sutherland, 132 Sycamore North Drive, Hanover.

Phillips Development Inc. to Kevin Clinton and Diane Clinton, 153 Williamson Drive, Hanover.

Dec. 19, 2025

Anthony John Dattilo Jr. and Philip Delmer Dattilo to Lisa Mae Morgan, corrective deed for 1802 Hatcher Hill Road, Madison.

Garry Chandler and Patti Chandler to Chris Shelton and Melissa Shelton, 4716 North Olive Branch Road, Madison.



THE MADISON COURIER

WWW.MADISONCOURIER.COM

(USPS 325000)

Published two days a week on Tuesday and Friday.

Periodical postage paid at Madison, IN and additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to: The Madison Courier, 310 Courier Square, Madison, IN 47250 **812-265-3641**

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In-county print and digital: \$60 annually
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Harp Twins



Mark Campbell

Some of the sold out crowd of 300 waited in line to enter St. Michael the Archangel historic site in downtown Madison for Saturday's Harp Twins Rockin' Christmas Concert at the former church.

Applications open in January for Habitat's affordable housing program

BY SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

Applications for Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Indiana's Homebuyer Program will be accepted from Jan. 5-14.

This program offers qualifying local individuals and families an affordable path to homeownership, while promoting long-term housing stability and community engagement.

Habitat for Humanity's Homebuyer Program is designed for households that are ready for the responsibility of homeownership but are unable to obtain a traditional mortgage. Selected homebuyers purchase their home from Habitat and repay an affordable mortgage, helping to build strength, stability, and independence for themselves and their families.

Homebuyer selection is based on three primary criteria:

- 1. Need for Housing —

Applicants must be living in housing that is overcrowded, unsafe, unaffordable or otherwise inadequate.

2. Ability to Pay — Applicants must demonstrate a stable income and the ability to afford a modest monthly mortgage payment and related housing expenses.

3. Willingness to Partner — Applicants must be willing to actively partner with Habitat throughout the process. This includes completing required education, responding promptly during partnership, and volunteering alongside staff and volunteers.

Those selected to move forward in the Homebuyer Program will:

- Pay an affordable monthly mortgage on their Habitat home.
- Be responsible for completing 150–220 “sweat equity” hours, which may include working on the construction site, assisting in Habitat's ReStore, and

participating in homeowner education classes.

The upcoming build will be a 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, accessible home located on Madison's hilltop, ensuring long-term comfort, safety, and mobility for the selected homebuyer

Applications and more information about the Homebuyer Program can be found at: habitatsei.org/homebuyer

Completed applications may be submitted:

- By email to: swilson@habitatsei.org
- By mail or in person to: Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Indiana 931 Lanier Dr. Madison, IN

All applications must be received between Jan. 5 and Jan. 14 to be considered for this selection cycle.

For questions about eligibility or the application process, contact Shelby Wilson at swilson@habitatsei.org.

Madison superintendent earns leadership award for education

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Madison Consolidated Schools Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown has been awarded the 2025 Dean F. Berkly Emerging Leadership Award from the Indiana University School of Education.

The award recognizes K–12 educational administrators who have demonstrated significant potential, early career success and a commitment to the values of public education. Recipients are often alumni of the IU School of Education's Educational Leadership program who are currently serving as principals, superintendents, or district directors such as Directors of Special Edu-

cation or Student Services.

Dr. Berkly, the award's namesake, served as a faculty member from 1957 until his retirement in 1990, notably as the Director of the Division of Administration and Administrative Studies (the precursor to the current Educational Leadership department). His legacy includes a reputation for being

a great orator. He was known for his ability to “tell the story of public education” with humor and hope, with the distinct ability to communicate and apply educational theories to the realities of day-to-day operations within a school system.

Brown, in addition to her district duties, teaches classes at Indiana University Bloomington through the

School of Education. Focusing on Master's and Doctoral level courses, she shares her experiences, knowledge, and guidance with students as they pursue their educational goals in school leadership.

“This award is very special to me,” said Brown. “To be able to return to my alma mater and share my passion for education with emerging leaders who will go on to do incredible things for public education is a gift. Today's educational leadership landscape is very different from just a few years ago. We have to be passionate about what we do, keep students at the forefront of our decisions, and be responsible with the resources we are given to ensure the best education possible for students of all ages within our communities.”



Teresa Brown

McAlister named 2026 Lilly scholar for Switzerland County

BY THE COURIER STAFF

The Community Foundation of Switzerland County Inc. has announced Lainie McAlister is Switzerland County's 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship recipient. Lainie is the daughter of Dan and Kodi McAlister of near Patriot.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character, and



Lainie McAlister

leadership, and are awarded a full tuition scholarship to the Indiana four-year college or university of their choice.

Lainie excels academically and has participated in a diverse range of activities. She serves as the Chapter President of FFA, is the Indiana FFA District XII Vice President, is the State Secretary of the Indiana Junior

Simmental Association, serves as her Class Secretary and participated in both soccer and cross country while in high school. She was also a

camp counselor for the Southeastern Indiana 4-H Camp and has volunteered her time for numerous community organizations and events. Lainie works several hours per week at both Roxano's Italian Restaurant and her family's farm.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides full tuition, required fees, and up to \$900 per year for required books and equipment for four years of full-time undergraduate study leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Scholars also join

the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects them with resources and opportunities to lead on campus and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI).

The Community Foundation of Switzerland County's selection committee reviewed 13 applications this year. The applicants were evaluated on academics, activities (school activities, community service, and work experience), writing samples and financial need. The selection committee used a blind process to evaluate

the applications, meaning committee members did not know whose applications they were evaluating. After the field of applicants was narrowed down, nominees were submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI), the statewide administrator of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, for final selection.

Since its inception in 1997–98, Lilly Endowment has supported this program with tuition grants totaling more than \$505 million, benefiting over 5,400 Indiana students. The program's primary purposes are:

- To raise the level of

educational attainment in Indiana.

- To increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations play.
- To encourage and support Lilly Scholars' engagement with Indiana leaders to improve quality of life statewide.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program can contact Melissa Andrew at the Community Foundation's office. The Foundation's office is located at 303 Ferry Street in Vevay. Andrew can be reached at 812-427-9160 or mandrew@cfsoci.org.

HDBR

FROM PAGE A1

in 2017.

The board members thanked Rodgers for what he has done to improve the neighborhood overall and his willingness to use materials appropriate to the Madison Historic District, but they also cited several concerns.

“You have a garage with a house

attached to it rather than the opposite,” board member Jed Skillman noted, adding that he had “no enthusiasm” for the project as proposed.

A fellow nearby owner, Valecia Crisafulli, who has completed a number of renovations herself, noted that the house does not fit with the neighborhood nor that area of the city. She suggested — as did the HDBR members — that garages should traditionally be at the rear or sides of a home, as

actually specified in the city's regulations.

“Lots of houses had carriage houses but that's not what's being proposed here,” Crisafulli said, adding that when Rodgers came before the city to demolish the badly deteriorated home originally on that lot he “promised he would build a house exactly like what was lost. I've been waiting on that for six years.”

Tony Steinhardt III, whose family owns property in the area, suggested

that the plan for the site did not fit with the neighborhood or with the stature of the property's location surrounded by sites of historic significance, city parks and with view of the Ohio River.

“This is one of the last prominent open sites — and it's got a view of historic site and an important park,” Steinhardt said. “I support infill but it needs to respect the neighborhood.”

Board member Chris Cody, suggested based on the location

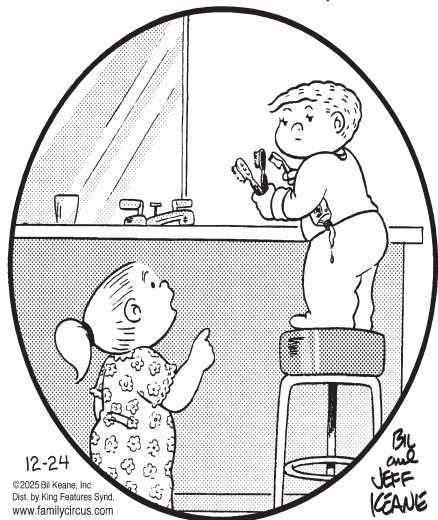
of the property, the site should be considered for more than a duplex.

“There is an opportunity to go bigger ... an opportunity for increased density and scale,” Cody said.

In the end the board members voted 6-0 to deny the certificate of appropriateness Rodgers needed to move forward with the project, leading Rodgers to remark that “I'm the first person to be denied and I can look across the street and see exactly what I want to build.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



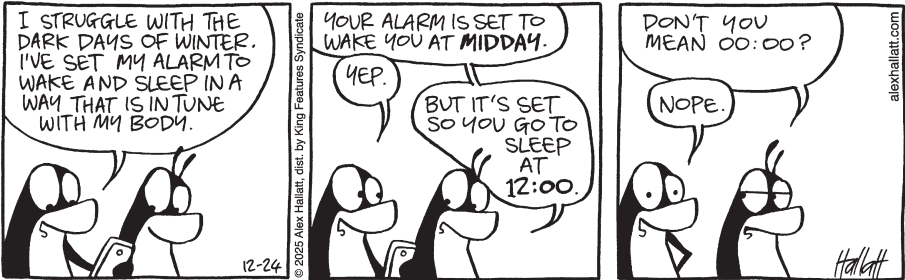
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BIZARRO

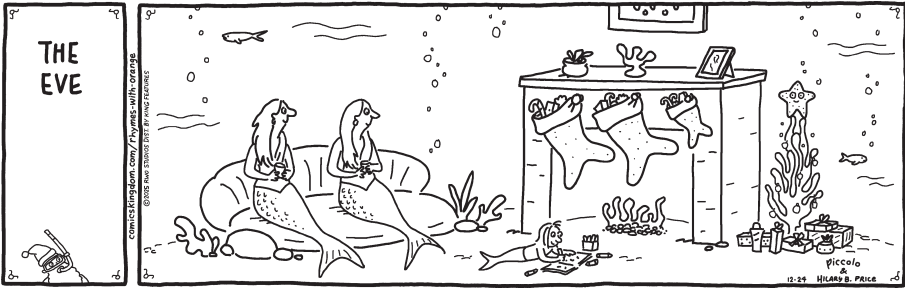


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RHYMES WITH ORANGE



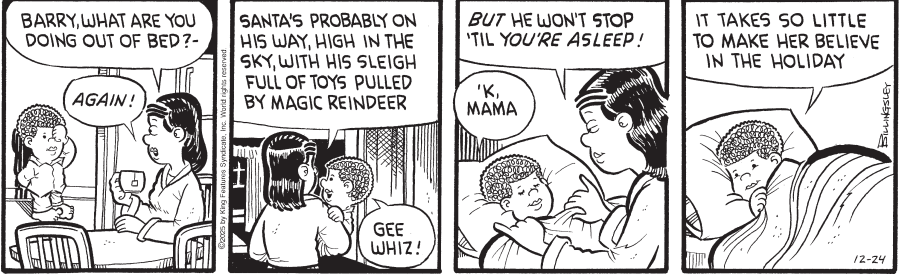
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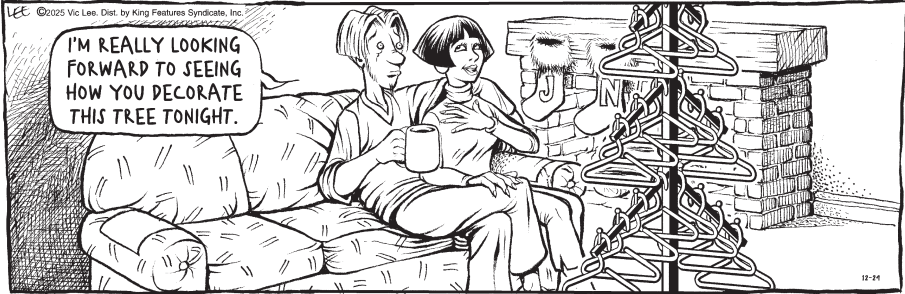
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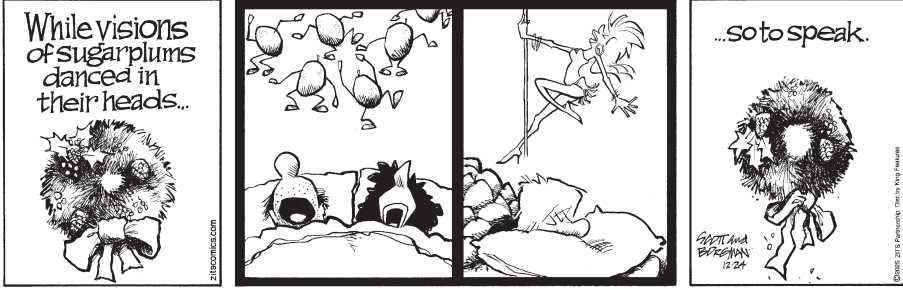
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PARDON MY PLANET



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ZITS



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DUMPLINGS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



SIX CHIX



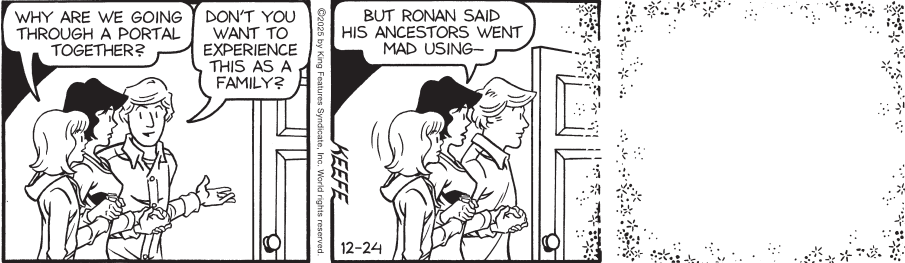
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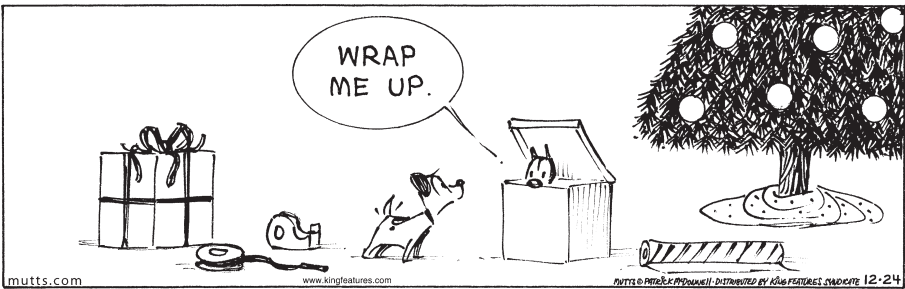
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DUSTIN



MUTTS



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Everything you need to know about Christmas, and how it has evolved into a global holiday

BY LUIS ANDRES HENAO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christmas is a Christian holiday that observes the birth of Jesus. But did you know that the earliest followers of Jesus did not annually commemorate his birth? Or that Santa Claus is inspired by the acts of kindness of a fourth-century Christian saint? And have you heard about the modern-day Japanese tradition of eating Kentucky Fried Chicken on Christmas?

Since the early 20th century, Christmas has evolved from a religious holiday to a hugely popular cultural holiday observed by Christian and secular people across the globe who gather with families, exchange gifts and cards and decorate Christmas trees.

Here's a look at the history, beliefs and the evolution of Christmas:

ORIGINS AND EARLY HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

Early followers of Jesus did not

annually commemorate his birth but instead focused on commemorating their belief in his resurrection at Easter.

The story of the birth of Jesus appears only in two of the four Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew and Luke. They provide different details, though both say Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

The exact day, month and even year of Jesus's birth are unknown, said Christine Shepardson, a professor at the University of Tennessee

who studies early Christianity.

The tradition of celebrating Jesus' birth on Dec. 25, she said, only emerged in the fourth century.

"It's hard to overemphasize how important the fourth century is for constructing Christianity as we experience it in our world today," Shepardson said. It was then, under Emperor Constantine, that Christians began the practice of gathering at churches instead of meeting at homes.

Some theories say the date

coincides with existing pagan winter solstice festivals, including the Roman celebration of Sol Invictus, or the "Unconquered Sun," on Dec 25.

While most Christians celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25, some Eastern Orthodox traditions celebrate the holy day on Jan. 7. That's because they follow the ancient Julian calendar, which runs 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar, used by Catholic and Protestant churches as well as by much of the secular world.

ELC

FROM PAGE A1

The ELC, scheduled to open in the fall of 2027, is being developed to serve up to 366 children and will be open to all residents of Jefferson County.

BLF's funds will be geared towards an indoor play space, a community sensory room and play therapy space, and an immersive garden and playscape.

Brown said the indoor playground provides a safe place for children to play no matter the weather. "The indoor playground is very important to us. We could not afford it with what we were building, and that's where Bethany money came into play. By them giving it to us, we were able to build the indoor playground for our kids."

The community sensory room and play therapy space allows children to safely explore their senses, learn self-regulation skills and process complex emotions through play therapy.

"This sensory room is a dream. We did not have the money to do it financially but Bethany Legacy gave us the funds, and now we are including that in our design," said Brown, citing benefits such as brain development, creativity, language development and problem-solving.

The immersive garden and playscape provides a place where children will learn through play while exploring nature and science. "It's going to be a pretty

special place" that will be safe for all children, she said.

The existence of the garden is consistent with what's been done throughout the school corporation. "All of our elementary schools now have outdoor gardens," said Brown. "We think that's really important for our kids to have access to fresh food to help grow it. It's part of what we're doing with our FarmStop. All of our kids are involved with that initiative K-12 now. And we're going to do it in preschool, too."

The Early Learning Center will be located on the grounds of the former E.O. Muncie Elementary School that will be demolished early next year. Brown anticipated groundbreaking for the Early Learning Center will take place in May of 2026.

Steinhardt said the ELC will fulfill a need that communities are struggling to meet all across the state.

"Many communities throughout Indiana are struggling with the childcare situation. Many economic developers and Mayors throughout the state of Indiana are struggling to figure out how to have quality facilities" for childcare," Steinhardt said. "We're so fortunate that the school corporation has taken on this challenge" and the city is "not having to lead that effort" as an economic development initiative.

In other business:

- Courtney said housing is going to be the "big push next year on all

spectrums, both on rental and single family side of things, as well as market and affordable." He said it's anticipated the Residences at Sunrise Crossing apartment complex that's currently under construction will have residents by next summer. Also, the city has put out a request for quote (RFQ) in the marketplace soliciting developer interest for investment in riverfront apartments in the area where a riverfront zoning district has been established.

- Meanwhile Steinhardt said "We're having both national and regional interest in our Destination Madison" because of the success of the Shoppes at Sunrise Crossing.

"We're are struggling at finding locations for those folks" in the vicinity of Clifty Drive, he said. "We'll continue to work with them and other property owners with potentially exciting opportunities in 2026."

He said the city is continuing to work on a new single-family home neighborhood that's expected to be announced in early 2026. "I can just tell you things take a lot longer than anticipated to try to pull together," he noted. "There are a lot of moving parts and pieces."

- The meeting was the last for Cary Strouse as a member of the Redevelopment Commission. "Cary has been serving the city of Madison in a phenomenal capacity as a commission member since 2018," said Courtney.

WEATHER

FROM PAGE A1

said he will discuss the matter further with a consultant to determine what options the county might have on that site.

- Approved establishment of a \$10 mobile home permit fee in the office of County Treasurer Meghan Crowley-Hoskins.

"In my office we prepare mobile home permits to transfer names from homes if they're moving the mobile homes. These permits take time to prepare in my office. We have to make sure everything is in working order then we send the customer up" to the Bureau of Motor Vehicle, said Crowley-Hoskins. "Other counties charge a similar fee, and I would like to do the same for our county."

- Reappointed Dr. Robin Waltz to the county health board. Appointed Monica Lohrig to the county safety committee.
- County Auditor Heather Huff said the WTH mapping system will not receive updates until late next month due to a software update.
- Approved a payment processing agreement for a credit card machine for the County Recorder's office.

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Sports

Southwestern dominates from the start in 76-38 win over Jac-Cen-Del

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Slow starts have plagued Southwestern of late with the Rebels needing nearly a quarter to get on track. But that wasn't a problem on Friday.

The Rebels attacked Jac-Cen-Del from the opening tip, scoring the first eight points and blowing the game open from the opening tip in a 76-38 win over their Ohio River Valley Conference rivals at home.

Southwestern led 33-5 after the first quarter, 58-12 at halftime and very likely would have reached the century mark if not for the mercy rule that forced a running clock in the second half.

The game was a welcome change from Southwestern's lethargic starts in recent games.

"I couldn't be more proud with how focused they were and the energy they had coming out of finals. Sometimes you're just not sure what you're going to get from high school kids on finals week," Southwestern coach Zac Nussbaum said. "We scored a bunch of points, but a lot of it's because our defense gave us great, easy opportunities."

Former coach Jerry Bomholt was honored before the game for his recent selection to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the defensive-minded coach had to have been happy watching the Rebels' defense dominate the contest.

Southwestern held Jac-Cen-Del to just 20% shooting in the first half and limited the Eagles to just 25 opportunities during that stretch. Jac-Cen-Del had only 13 turnovers in the game, but 10 of them came on Southwestern steals leading to 26 points.

That defense fed into an offense that shot 51% for the game — 55% in the first half — and had 18 assists on 29 made baskets. Four players reached double figures for Southwestern and nine different players scored.

"Energy is contagious, whether it's positive or negative. And Coach (Cam) Rogers deserves a lot of credit on that," Nussbaum said. "He brings energy, he's celebrating whenever guys are diving on the floor. We joke that he's the 'get on the floor coach.' That's his drill at practice. And he takes it seriously. He just does a great job of helping bring that energy."

Brady Cook led Southwestern's balanced scoring attack with 16 points and he added six rebounds and four



David Campbell

Southwestern's Jeter Chatham (left) and Brady Cook (right) go after a rebound in the Rebels' win over Jac-Cen-Del on Friday.

assists. Caleb Goode had 15 points, Quenton Lewis had 11 points and eight rebounds, Andrew Nussbaum had 11 points, Jeter Chatham had nine points and six rebounds and Luke Morrow had seven points and eight rebounds.

Southwestern kept the energy up on Saturday, rolling to an 87-59 win at Clarksville. Lewis scored a career-high 20 points, Cook had 19 points,

eight rebounds and eight assists, Nussbaum had 17 points, Goode scored 16 points and Chatham had 15 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

Southwestern, now 5-1 overall, 2-0 Ohio River Valley Conference, takes the rest of this week off for Christmas before returning to action Monday,

SEE **REBELS/PAGE B2**

Shawe's Vaughn sets two school records in swim meet at Southwestern

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn set two school records and Madison won a total of 16 events in what amounts to the Cubs' only in-county swim meet of the year in a tri-meet at Southwestern on Thursday.

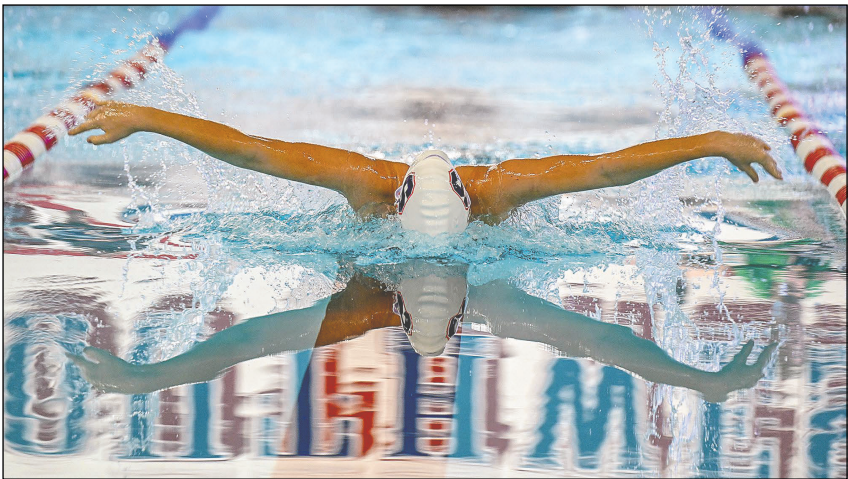
Vaughn, a senior, won both of his events and broke his own school record in each. He swam first in the 200-yard individual medley in 2:12.94 and the 100 butterfly in 58.26.

Madison dominated the meet with its superior numbers, beating Southwestern 170-60 in the girls meet and 110-15 in the boys, and Shawe 184-8 in the girls and 105-14 in the boys. Southwestern defeated Shawe 88-10 in the girls meet and 28-14 in the boys.

Madison's girls won all but two events on the night. Winners for the Cubs were: Lilly Canida, 100 free, 55.04 and 100 back, 1:01.10; Tayleigh Johnson, 200 free, 2:17.20 and 100 breast, 1:17.51; Alejandra Schutte, 200 IM, 2:28.80 and 500 free, 6:06.21; Ava Canida, Schutte, Lilly Canida and Lilly Dattilo, 200 medley relay, 1:55.14; Johnson, Poppy Kelsey, Schutte and Sarah Ricketts, 200 free relay, 2:01.58; and Dattilo, Ava Canida, Johnson and Lilly Canida, 400 free relay, 3:59.73.

The other two events in the girls meet were both won by Southwestern's Natalee Crawford, who claimed the 50 freestyle in 26.17 and the 100 butterfly in 1:03.73.

Madison also won all but two events in the boys meet. Winners for the Cubs were: Trenton Schafer, 50 free, 25.13 and 100 free, 54.91; William Overpeck, 2:11.79 and 100 breast, 1:08.48; Cole Goodknight, 100 back, 1:03.89; Goodknight, Overpeck, Garrett Klein and Schafer, 200 medley relay, 1:51.61; and Owain Kelsey, Jack Kernens,



David Campbell

Southwestern's Natalee Crawford glides through the water during her win in the 100 butterfly during the tri-meet at home on Thursday.

Brayden Featherstone and Klein, 200 free relay, 1:48.71.

Other top finishes for Madison's girls were: Kira Brittain, second, 200 free, 2:37.31; Reagan Wynn, second, 200 IM, 2:46.14 and second, 500 free, 6:42.02; Dattilo, second, 50 free, 26.31 and second, 100 back, 1:02.45; Ava Canida, second, 100 fly, 1:10.74 and third, 50 free, 26.34; Ricketts, second, 100 breast, 1:30.82; Brittain, Maddie Guirguis, Jenna Renfrow and Wynn, second, 200 free relay, 2:21.77; Guirguis, third, 200 IM, 3:21.66; Kelsey, third, 100 fly, 1:35.68; and Brittain, Ricketts, Kelsey and Wynn, third, 200 medley relay, 2:21.00.

Other finishes for Southwestern's girls were: Haylee Crawford, second, 1:06.01 and third, 100 back, 1:17.63; Haylee Crawford, Adalei Watson, Natalee Crawford and Alexis Dean-Wells, second, 200 medley relay, 2:20.24 and second, 400 free relay, 4:35.28; Watson, third, 200 free, 2:45.58 and fourth, 500 free, 7:24.28; Dean-Wells, third, 500 free, 7:13.98 and fifth, 100

back, 1:20.35; and Molly Bruce, sixth, 50 free, 39.55 and sixth, 100 free, 1:31.06.

Shawe's Taytum Gray finished third in the girls 100 freestyle in 1:14.07 and fifth in the 50 freestyle in 30.10.

Other top finishes for Madison's boys were: Featherstone, second, 200 free, 2:25.85 and second, 100 breast, 1:24.49; Goodknight, second, 200 IM, 2:25.10; Klein, second, 50 free, 25.39 and second, 100 fly, 59.00; Kelsey, second, 100 free, 59.47 and third, 50 free, 25.85; and Kernens, third, 200 IM, 2:57.93 and third, 100 free, 1:04.91.

Other finishes for Southwestern's boys were: Shane Hardy, second, 100 back, 1:18.58 and fourth, 50 free, 29.34; and Brady Bowman, third, 100 breast, 1:31.34 and fourth, 100 free, 1:08.29.

All three schools are off until after the holiday break. Madison travels to Salem on Tuesday, Jan. 6, and Southwestern and Shawe both swim at Switzerland County on Thursday, Jan. 8.

Madison football coach Benintende resigns after 2 years

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Charles Benintende led Madison's football program to heights it had not seen in more than 30 years. On Thursday, he resigned as coach after two seasons citing disagreements with school administrators.

In a scathing post on Facebook, Benintende laid out his reasons for choosing to step down as head football coach, from a perceived lack of support from school administrators to the inability to find a job working within the school itself.

"I have heard from so many people, asking if I would reconsider. Asking if there were anything to change my mind. YES YES and YES," Benintende wrote. "In all of this I haven't been contacted by any staff member at the school or administration building. NO ONE. I am sure they are disappointed in me or maybe not. But know this, I am DISSAPOINTED in THEM."

Benintende took over a one-win team in 2024 and led Madison to a 6-5 record and a berth in the sectional championship game. The sectional runner-up finish was Madison's first since 1992 and it marked just the second winning season for the program in that time span.

Madison slipped this past season to 2-9, but with a very young roster that improved every week, Benintende was excited about the program's future.

"I like where we're heading. I like what we got coming back next year," Benintende said after the Cubs' sectional loss to Indian Creek. "We got to see what we got coming in from the eighth grade, see how much they can help. We got some people that are going to be able to play right away. But I love these guys, and it's a hard pill to swallow, but we're better for it and we'll be good moving forward."

But the seeds for Benintende's departure had already been sown, and it began just weeks into his tenure. Benintende said that he felt he was hired to help change the culture of the football program but nearly from day one, he said that he was held back.

"I came in with fire. I came in with all systems on go to change the culture of the program. I thought that I was asked to change the culture of the student body and their involvement with spirit and connection to the program. I was wrong," Benintende wrote.

Benintende pointed to the cancellation of a pep rally for the homecoming game and a lack of other

school functions as the football team made its historic run in the sectional tournament. Benintende said he asked the school to do more to fire up the student body but was told no.

"I was told that football celebrations were OVER.

The next pep rally would be for the turkey shootout. I didn't understand so I pushed a little harder on the subject and was told in no uncertain terms that no matter how far we went in football we would not have

any celebrations," Benintende wrote. "We went to the sectional championship and lost 8-7 but they held firm because we didn't have any football related celebrations from homecoming to the last loss in the season."

Another issue that Benintende had with the school was the lack of employment within the school itself. The coach was hired without the promise of a job, and without a teaching certificate, he was not considered for any openings. He said that he was willing to get a teaching certificate but that it did not matter. As a result, he ended up working for DoorDash and Walmart in order to make ends meet.

"Sure, I interviewed but come to find out there were NO real intentions to hire me. I spoke about whatever position I get if I need anything for it (teachers certificate). I have my GI BILL to use so the school district wouldn't have to help with a grant or anything. That went on DEAF EARS," Benintende said. "I just need to be in the building in a job that I can prosper in and bring life to whatever department I was blessed to be in. The staff kept telling me that I didn't have a teachers certificate and I know that but I was willing to get one."

"So, I was left with really no choice but to go outside to find a job. One that would let me off in the time to make it to football practice, weights, and conditioning."

Despite all of this, Benintende said that he is willing to stay if only he was given an opportunity to work in the school. But no offer was made and he felt like he had no choice but to resign.

"I am a CUB. I am a coach that loves ALL of his players and wants the very best for them on and off the field," Benintende wrote. "I am Madison. I am sorry I ever started this but I wanted to make sure that I let EVERYONE know that I am hurting as much or even more than my players that are caught up in this."



Charles Benintende

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, DEC. 23

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co. boys hosts Francis Parker, Carroll Co. Classic, 6:30 p.m.

Switzerland Co. boys at Brown Co., 6:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

Madison boys host Batesville, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

No local events

THURSDAY, DEC. 25

No local events

FRIDAY, DEC. 26

BASKETBALL

Trimble Co. boys vs. Columbus Christian, Rising Sun, Rumble on the River at Shawe, 10:30 a.m./4:50 p.m.

Shawe boys host Carroll Co., Rumble on the River at Shawe, 6:40 p.m.

Southwestern girls vs. Northeastern, Hauser Tourney, 3 p.m.

Berman's buzzer 3 lifts Hanover women to Trine Classic title

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Sammy Berman hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to lead Hanover women's basketball to a 49-46 overtime win over host Trine in the championship game of the Trine Classic on Sunday.

Points were nearly impossible to come by for both teams. Trine led 28-25 at the half but only a total of 32 points were scored in the second half as the offenses ground to a halt.

Trine led 42-41 with 3:24 left in regulation but Hanover's Emerson Vlcán tied the game with a free-throw with

1:50 to go. Trine missed six shots over the final two minutes and Hanover missed a shot and two free throws to send the game into overtime.

Points were just as scarce in the extra session but Hanover managed to take a 46-44 lead on a three-point play by Lily Ernestes with 2:24 to go. Trine's Olivia Marks tied the game on two free throws a few minutes later.

Both teams missed a pair of shots down the stretch before Berman finally won it with her three at the buzzer.

Berman finished with 16 points to lead all scorers. Alexis Wines had 12

points for Hanover, which shot 30% for the game and turned the ball over 21 times. Ernestes had nine points and eight rebounds, Kaitlyn Lorenzi had six points and 11 rebounds and Vlcán had four points and 10 rebounds.

Hanover opened the tournament with a 70-51 win over Olivet on Saturday. Wines had 23 points and six rebounds for Hanover, Berman had 19 points and Vlcán had 17 points and nine rebounds.

Hanover, now 8-3 on the season, does not play again until Saturday, Jan. 3 when it hosts Bluffton at Collier Arena.

BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Shawe falls short at Crothersville

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Shawe Memorial battled down to the wire but suffered a 77-63 loss at Crothersville on Friday.

The Hilltoppers trailed by only two at halftime and by as many as seven in the fourth before rallying to tie the score 62-62. But the host Tigers outscored Shawe 15-1 in the stretch to pull away late and escape with the win.

"Really proud of the effort by all the boys tonight. We never gave up and just didn't make enough plays at the end," Shawe coach Dan Hambrick said. "There were a lot of positives out of tonight that we can build on."

Loren Stiver scored 17 points in the second half and finished with 21 to lead Shawe. Gus Grote and Clark Nichter scored 11 each, Aiden Edmondson had 10, Taylor Ralston added seven and Cavaan Hambrick netted six.

Shawe, now 2-6 on the season, hosts the Rumble on the River Tournament beginning Friday. The Hilltoppers will play three nearby Kentucky schools in the tournament, Trimble County, Carroll County and Eminence.

TRIMBLE FALLS TO GALLATIN

Trimble County ended up on the wrong end of a 47-31 score at home to Gallatin County on Friday.

Drake Pennix led the Raiders with nine points, Liam Taylor had seven and Briley Clifford scored six.

Trimble, now 1-6 on the season, hosted Anderson County on Monday and plays in the Rumble on the River Tournament at Shawe beginning on Friday. The Raiders will play Rising Sun, Columbus Christian and Shawe.

CARROLL SPLITS TWO GAMES

Carroll County split a pair of games at home late last week.

On Thursday, the Panthers lost 65-46 to Anderson County but rebounded to beat Robertson County 72-47 on Saturday in the opening round of the Carroll County Christmas Classic. Details were not available for either game.

Carroll, now 3-4 on the season, will wrap up the Christmas Classic this week. On Monday, the Panthers faced Williamstown and will play Francis Parker on Tuesday.

Carroll's next games will be in the Rumble on the River Tournament at Shawe beginning on Friday. The

Panthers will play Rising Sun, Columbus Christian and Shawe in the tourney.

CUBS STUMBLE TO 0-5

Madison boys basketball fell to 0-5 on the season for the second-straight year with a 68-53 loss at Austin on Saturday.

No details from the game were available.

Madison has the week off for Christmas before hosting the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament starting on Monday, Dec. 29. The Cubs will face Christian Academy of Indiana and River City HomeSchool in pool play.

SWITZERLAND DROPS TWO

Switzerland County suffered a pair of losses late last week, falling 66-26 at home to East Central on Friday and 68-20 at Providence on Saturday.

No details were available for either game.

Switzerland, now 0-6, travels to Brown County on Tuesday and hosts the Complete Contractors Holiday Classic in Vevay beginning Monday, Dec. 29. The Pacers host Franklin County in their opener.

Slow start dooms Madison in Top 10 battle with Jennings

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Madison didn't get the desired outcome in its Top 10 battle with Jennings County on Thursday, but the Lady Cubs may end up being a better team in the long run.

Madison, ranked eighth in the Class 3A coaches poll, found itself down early to Class 3A No. 7 Jennings County and lost 50-38 at home in girls basketball.

The loss was the second in three days for Madison, which came into the week undefeated. But despite suffering losses to former Hoosier Hills Conference rivals Floyd Central and Jennings County, Madison coach Adam Dennis was pleased with the week.

"I'm sad for them but this was a good week for us. It doesn't look like it on the scoreboard, but it was a good week," Dennis said. "Our kids were excited for this week. They were talking to each other, they were trying to figure things out. They were talking to the coaches. They're just a phenomenal group of kids, and we're gonna learn a lot from this week, and we're gonna be so much better coming out of it. So we feel pretty good about it."

Madison (7-2) started out strong against Jennings, turning the Panthers over five times on their first six possessions and taking an early 5-0 lead. But while Madison's defense did its part — the Cubs turned Jennings over 20 times and outscored the Panthers 16-7 on turnovers — its offense could just never get on track.

Madison struggled against Jennings' length all night, shooting just 30% from the floor including only 3-for-21 from 3-point range. Each time the Cubs tried

to attack the paint, they were met with a wall of arms and could never solve the problem.

The result was that Madison fell behind 16-9 after the first quarter and trailed 26-16 at halftime. The Cubs played much better in the second half but the damage was done.

"That's part of growing into a good team. This group is trying to reach that level and they're so close," Dennis said. "Being around them in practice and in the locker room and in the huddles, you can feel that they're so doggone close and I just feel for them, because they really want to win a game like this."

Every player struggled offensively for Madison. Senior Juliana Davis, who is closing in on the school's career scoring record, scored just 12 points, just half of her season average, although she did have six rebounds and five steals.

Mylee McQueary was the only other Lady Cub in double-figures with 10 points and six rebounds. Addison Roark added seven points.

Jennings County (8-2) ended up shooting 50% from the floor but the Panthers only attempted 32 shots against Madison's stifling defense. University of Kansas recruit Mollie Ernestes scored 15 points but turned the ball over seven times while Etta Young had 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead Jennings.

Madison has this week off for Christmas and returns to action on Monday, Dec. 29 when it competes in the Donna Cheatham Classic at Scottsburg. The Cubs will face Class 2A No. 10 Eastern (Pekin) in the first game and either Scottsburg or Batesville in the second.



David Campbell

Madison's Kenzie Smith (12) and Juliana Davis (4) battle with Jennings County's Mollie Ernestes during Thursday's game at Madison.



David Campbell

Madison's Kylie Montgomery (left) and Jennings County's Hailey Dunham battle for a loose ball during Thursday's game at Madison.

GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Southwestern rolls to 4th-straight win 54-13 over Rock Creek

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Southwestern girls basketball won its fourth-straight contest, this time 54-13 at home over Rock Creek on Thursday.

Savannah Nussbaum scored 17 points and had seven steals for the Rebels. Mikayla Nussbaum had 13 points and seven steals, Sophie Ford had 12 points and three assists and Josie Hubbard had seven points and six rebounds.

Southwestern, now 8-4 on the season, competes in the DiTech Holiday Classic at Hauser beginning on Friday. The Rebels will play Northeastern in the opening game and either Crawford County or Columbus East in the second game.

setback at Newport Central Catholic. Stark had 19 points and Mahoney scored 12 for the Raiders.

Trimble, now 5-2 on the season, plays in the 4 Banks Classic at Garrard County beginning on Monday, Dec. 29. The Raiders face Estill County in the opening round.

CARROLL GOES 1-2 IN TENNESSEE

Carroll County girls basketball picked up one win in three games in the Rocky Top Sports World Tournament in Tennessee over the weekend.

The Panthers lost 65-20 to Baylor School (Tenn.) on Thursday and 41-30 to Station Camp (Tenn.) on Friday before closing the tourney with a 54-29 win over Buckhorn on Saturday.

Lyra McKinney and Mya Hall each scored five points to lead Carroll against Baylor. Hall, an eighth grader, had 12 points and senior Josie Dale scored nine against Station Camp. Hall had 15 points, Brooklyn Rose 11 and Hemi Dickerson nine against Buckhorn.

Carroll, now 4-5 on the season, hosts the Pam Browning Classic starting on Monday, Dec. 29. The Panthers will face Iroquois in the opening round.

SHAWE FALLS TO SOUTH RIPLEY

Shawe suffered a 46-21 loss at South Ripley on Thursday. No details from the game were available.

Shawe, now 6-3 overall, 2-1 Ohio River Valley Conference, plays in the Austin Tournament beginning on Monday, Dec. 29. The Hilltoppers will face West Washington and Switzerland County in pool play.

TRIMBLE SPLITS TWO GAMES

Trimble County hit the road for a pair of games late last week and came away with a win and a loss.

On Thursday, the Raiders traveled to Gallatin County and won 50-45. Ainslie Stark had 20 points and Kendra Mahoney scored nine for Trimble.

On Saturday, Trimble suffered a last-second 56-55

PACERS LOSE TO AUSTIN

Switzerland County hosted Austin on Saturday and lost 71-50. No details from the game were available.

Switzerland, now 5-5, plays in the Austin Tournament beginning on Monday, Dec. 29. The Pacers will face West Washington and Shawe in pool play.



David Campbell

Former Southwestern coach Jerry Bomholt holds a plaque after being inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame on Friday. Bomholt, the school's all-time winningest coach, won three sectional titles and was a state runner-up at the school.

REBELS

FROM PAGE B1

Dec. 29 when it plays in the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament at Madison. The Rebels will face two ranked opponents in pool play including Class 3A No. 11 Brownstown and Class 2A No. 10 Paoli.



David Campbell

Southwestern cheerleaders Maddie Kemp (left) and Morgan Kemp jump during Friday's basketball win over Jac-Cen-Del.

YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD.
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Burrow gives Bengals momentum going into final 2 games of season

BY CHARLIE GOLDSMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow responded to the worst statistical game of his NFL career with some history.

One week after a shutout loss to the Baltimore Ravens, Burrow had the second-best passer rating of his NFL career as the Bengals beat the Miami Dolphins, 45-21. Burrow reached some milestones along the way.

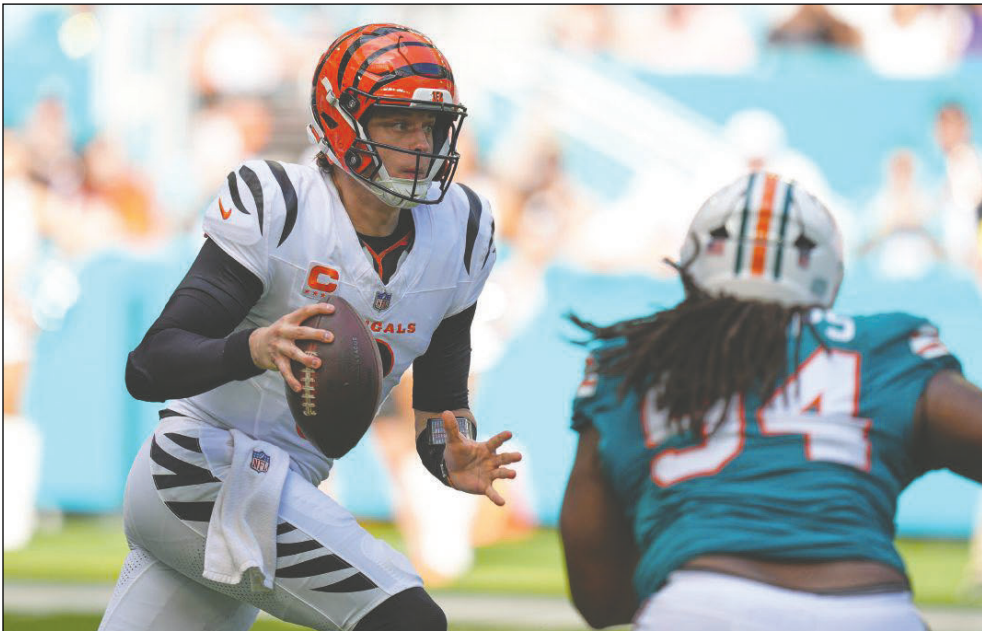
In his 75th game, Burrow reached 20,000 yards. He became the fifth-fastest player in NFL history to reach the milestone. The only quarterbacks to that number in fewer games were Patrick Mahomes, Matthew Stafford, Andrew Luck and Dan Marino.

Burrow also became the third-fastest QB in league history to reach 150 touchdown passes, trailing only Marino and Mahomes.

“We just executed better at the end of the day,” said Burrow, who had a 146.5 passer rating on Sunday. “Tee (Higgins) set it off, set the tone for the day. Those two big plays early kind of set the tone for, number one, how the day was going and, number two, how they were going to play us. I think they had a plan, and then those two plays happened and they had to change their plan. That’s why Tee is who he is and why we value him so much, he just makes plays like that.”

Higgins reeled in a 35-yard catch followed by a touchdown catch in the first quarter, which was the beginning of the dominance on the day from the Bengals’ high-powered offense.

Just about every skill position player had his turn. Wide receiver Ja’Marr Chase had another 100-yard game, running back Chase Brown had three touchdowns in the third quarter alone and Mike Gesicki made a contested touchdown catch against his former team. Blocking tight end Drew Sample made one of the biggest plays of the game, sneaking out of a block and making himself available on a third down check-down that resulted in a 27-yard gain that set up a go-ahead



Rebecca Blackwell/AP photo

Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow, left, scrambles during the first half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Dec. 21, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

touchdown before halftime.

“I feel like we’ve shown this a million times over the years,” coach Zac Taylor said. “Unfortunately, this year we just haven’t been able to do it. But this is no surprise. I was walking off the field with Drew Sample and he said, ‘This is how I’m used to these games going, when we’ve got everybody on offense ready to roll.’ We’ve got another opportunity this week against Arizona to come back home and do it in front of our fans, and I expect our guys to respond the right way.”

When the Bengals were eliminated from the playoffs last week, after Burrow was picked off twice against the Ravens, Taylor faced questions about whether or not the Bengals were going to shut Burrow down for the season. Taylor decided to keep Burrow in the lineup, and a quarterback who has dealt with some frustration recently appreciated the decision.

Even though the 5-10 Bengals are eliminated from playoff contention, the game meant something to Burrow.

“I’m having fun playing football,” Burrow said. “Not playing football is not fun. Sitting in the locker room rehabbing all day, that’s not why you do it. This is why you do it right here.”

WHAT’S WORKING

Since Thanksgiving, no

defense has forced more turnovers than the Bengals. On what was an explosive day for the Bengals’ offense, the defense made its biggest impact with takeaways. A forced fumble by safety Jordan Battle, a pick tipped from cornerback Josh Newton to linebacker Barrett Carter and a pick by Jalen Davis were key to shutting down the Dolphins’ offense in the second half.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Bengals’ pass rush. Defensive end Trey Hendrickson, defensive end Josh Ossaai and defensive tackle Kris Jenkins Jr. are all dealing with injuries, which has forced backups into bigger roles. While defensive end Myles Murphy continued what’s been a strong season, the Bengals’ pass rush still was limited to four quarterback hits and no sacks on Sunday.

STOCK UP

Slot cornerback Jalen Davis. After spending the first half of the season on the practice squad, Davis stepped into the starting lineup in November following a season-ending injury to Cam Taylor-Britt. Davis, the longest-tenured player on the Bengals’ defense, has been consistently strong against the run during his time in the lineup. Then on Sunday he had his first career interception.

STOCK DOWN

WRs Andrei Iosivas and Mitch Tinsley. With Ja’Marr Chase and Tee Higgins both in the lineup, the Bengals had their full complement of pass catchers. Iosivas and Tinsley combined for just one total catch and continued what’s been a quiet month for each of them.

INJURIES

Cornerback DJ Turner battled the flu and was limited to 45% of the snaps in the game. Tight end Cam Grandy suf-

fered a clavicle injury. Defensive tackle Kris Jenkins Jr. landed on the injured reserve list last Saturday.

Cardinals in what will be the Bengals’ only matchup against an NFC West opponent this season.

KEY NUMBERS

2: Ja’Marr Chase is the second-fastest player in NFL history to reach 500 catches. He’s also the first player in league history with at least 500 catches and 50 receiving touchdowns in his first five seasons.

100: Chase Brown had his seventh game of 100-plus yards this season, which beats former Bengals receiver A.J. Green’s record from 2013.

WHAT’S NEXT

Cincinnati faces the Arizona



MDK # 25-004615 TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHERIFF'S SALE NOTICE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of the Switzerland Circuit Court of Switzerland County, Indiana, in Cause No. 78C01-2503-MF-000103, wherein Nationstar Mortgage LLC was Plaintiff, and Charles R. Smith were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on January 27, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at the Sheriff's Office at 405 Liberty Street Vevay, IN 47043 the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Switzerland County, Indiana. A part of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 2 West, located in York Township of Switzerland County, Indiana, described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 2 West; thence North 88 degrees 49 minutes 56 seconds East 1134.75 feet to an iron bar being the point of beginning; thence continuing North 88 degrees 49 minutes 56 seconds East 380.00 feet to a P. K. nail in the centerline of Scott's Ridge Road; thence along the centerline of said road the following two courses: South 03 degrees 52 minutes 11 seconds East 206.33 feet to a steel nail; South 13 degrees 09 minutes 08 seconds East 94.85 feet to a steel nail; thence South 68 degrees 33 minutes 40 seconds West 380.00 feet to an iron bar; thence North 08 degrees 21 minutes 58 seconds West 433.98 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 3.109 acres. Subject to the right-of-way of Scott's Ridge Road and all easements of record. ALSO: Subject to a twenty (20) foot wide easement for the purpose of ingress and egress, the centerline of which is described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 2 West; thence North 88 degrees 49 minutes 56 seconds East 1134.75 feet; thence South 08 degrees 21 minutes 58 seconds East 433.98 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 68 degrees 33 minutes 40 seconds East 380.00 feet to the point of termination. Description prepared by Gary L. McAllister, R. L. S. #S0399, dated July 26, 1993, and recorded in Survey Record 2, Page 335 thereof, in the Recorder's Office of Switzerland County, Indiana. EXCEPTING THEREFROM: A part of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 2 West, located in York Township of Switzerland County, Indiana, described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 2 West; thence North 88 degrees 49 minutes 56 seconds East 1134.75 feet to an iron pin found, the point of beginning; thence continuing North 88 degrees 49 minutes 56 seconds East 380.00 feet to a P. K. nail found in the centerline of Scott's Ridge Road; thence along said centerline South 03 degrees 52 minutes 11 seconds East 139.65 feet; thence South 88 degrees 49 minutes 56 seconds West 369.42 feet; thence North 08 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds West 140.55 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 1.200 acres. Subject to the right-of-way of Scott's Ridge Road and all easements of record (according to a survey made by Gary L. McAllister, R. L. S. #S0399, dated August 11, 1995). Commonly known address: 10987 Scotts Ridge Road, Rising Sun, IN 47040 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws. Nicholas M. Smith MDK Legal P.O. Box 165028 Columbus OH 43216-5028 Telephone: 614-220-5611 Attorney for Plaintiff Brian Morton, Sheriff of Switzerland County Township: York Parcel No./ Tax Id #: 78-09-13-100-003.005-008 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.



NOTICE
DOYLE & FOULTY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR



LEGAL NOTICE

Republican Township Trustee Office
1140 N. Thompson Road
Madison, IN 47250

Date: 12/16/2025

To:
Township Board Members
Kent Fire Company
Republican Township Residents

Location: Kent Fire Department
Re: January 2026 Township Meeting Dates

Dear Board Members, Representatives of Kent Fire Company and Republican Township Residents

Please be advised of the following scheduled meetings for the Republican Township Trustee Office in January 2026. These meetings are being held in accordance with Indiana Code and statutory requirements governing township operations.

Tuesday, January 6, 6:30PM 2026
Annual Meeting of the Township Board
This meeting will be held for the purpose of organizing the Township Board by electing one (1) member to serve as Chairman and one (1) member to serve as Secretary for the 2026 calendar year.
This meeting is scheduled as required on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January pursuant to **IC 36-6-6-7**.

Monday, January 19, 6:30PM 2026
Annual Meeting of the Township Board of Finance
The Township Board will meet to organize as the Township Board of Finance by electing one (1) member to serve as President and one (1) member to serve as Secretary, each for a one-year term.

During this meeting, the Investment Officer will present a written report summarizing the township's investments for the previous calendar year. The report will include the names of all financial institutions, government agencies, instrumentalities, or other entities with which township funds were invested.

The Local Board of Finance will
1. Review the investment report; and
2. Review the township's overall investment policy.

This meeting will also serve as the **annual meeting of the Township Board for the purpose of receiving, auditing, and approving the Annual Report**, in compliance with **IC 5-13-7-6 and IC 5-13-7-7**.
This meeting will be held after the first Monday in January and on or before the last day of January, as required by law.

Public Meeting Notice
All meetings are open to the public unless an Executive Session is properly called in accordance with Indiana law. Meetings will be recorded as required under Indiana law.

Please ensure attendance or appropriate representation at these meetings. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Republican Township Trustee Office.

Respectfully,

Angie Sims
Republican Township Trustee
Republican Township Trustee Office
1140 N. Thompson Road
Madison, IN 47250
812-701-3273
republicantownshiptrustee@icloud.com



NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Jefferson Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Indiana, in Cause No. 39C01-2502-MF-000151, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corporation was Plaintiff, and The Unknown Heirs and Devises of Thomas James Scroggins III, Deceased and State of Indiana were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 22nd day of January, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 1150 JA Berry Ln, Madison, IN 47250, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jefferson County, Indiana.

Lot Number Seventeen (17) in Wolf Trails Subdivision, which plat was recorded July 19, 1994 in Plat Book 2, Page 189, in the Office of the Recorder of Jefferson County, Indiana.

More commonly known as 1969 Wolf Trails Dr, Madison, IN 47250-1985
Parcel No. 39-08-28-124-025.000-007

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws.

/s/ BRYAN K. REDMOND
BRYAN K. REDMOND,
Plaintiff Attorney
Attorney # 22108-29
FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.
8415 Allison Pointe Blvd.,
Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Ben Flint, Sheriff
Madison Township
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.

SERVICE DIRECTED TO:
The Unknown Heirs and Devises of Thomas James Scroggins III, Deceased
1969 Wolf Trails Dr
Madison, IN 47250-1985
Service Type: Publication

NOTICE
FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.,
IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.



TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Indiana, in Cause No. 39C01-2406-MF-000510 wherein MidFirst Bank was Plaintiff, and The Unknown Heirs at Law of Deborah W. Dorten, Deceased, Patrick H. Dorten, Sherri L. Dorten DOC# 293843 a/k/a Sherri Dorten, LVNV Funding, LLC, Bank of America, N.A. and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 22nd day of January, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 A.M. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 1150 JA Berry Lane, Madison, IN 47250, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jefferson County, Indiana.

Lot No. Fourteen (14), Mouser Plat to the Town of North Madison, (now City of Madison), Indiana, as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 30, Recorder's Office of Jefferson county, Indiana.

More commonly known as: 131 Mouser Street, Madison, IN 47250

Parcel No. : 39-08-27-114-004.000-007

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws.

Ben Flint
Sheriff of Jefferson County
Madison Township
131 Mouser Street, Madison, IN 47250
Street Address
SHERIFF FILE NO:

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein

Alan W. McEwan
24051-49
Doyle & Foutty, P.C.
41 E Washington Street
Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46204

SERVICE DIRECTED TO:

Patrick H. Dorten
131 Mouser St
Madison, IN 47250-2615
MANNER OF SERVICE: Sheriff

Sherri L. Dorten DOC# 293843 a/k/a Sherri Dorten, Dearborn County Community Corrections
215 W High Street #B
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
MANNER OF SERVICE: Certified Mail

Keith W. Lerch,
Minton-Capehart Federal Building
575 N. Pennsylvania Street,
Room 655
Indianapolis, IN 46204
MSNNER OF SERVICE: Certified Mail

Occupant(s) of 131 Mouser Street, Madison, IN 47250
131 Mouser Street
Madison, IN 47250
MANNER OF SERVICE: Sheriff

NOTICE
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STATE OF INDIANA IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO. 39C01-2511-EU-000088

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF RODNEY RAY MAY, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that on December 1, 2025, Jennifer Hutton was appointed personal representative of the estate of Rodney Ray May, deceased, who died on November 4, 2025.

All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Madison, Indiana, this 1st day of December 2025.

/s/Tabatha Eblen
Clerk, Jefferson Circuit Court



SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF JEFFERSON) CAUSE NO. 39C01-2505-MF-000517 LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. CAROL N. MANN, DARRELL LOCK JR., DISCOVER BANK C/O DISCOVER PRODUCTS INC. and ASHLEE DAILY, Defendants. NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the Defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate Against the property commonly known as 5269 S 450 W, Hanover, IN 47243-9092 and described as follows: BEING A PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, SALUDA TOWNSHIP, JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 36, SAID POINT BEING MARKED BY A 3-1/2 INCH BRASS DISC IN THE CENTERLINE OF COUNTY ROAD 450 WEST; THENCE WITH THE CENTERLINE OF COUNTY ROAD 450 WEST AND THE QUARTER SECTION LINE, NORTH 00 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST 1321.00 FEET TO A RAILROAD SPIKE AND THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE LEAVING THE CENTERLINE OF COUNTY ROAD 450 WEST AND THE QUARTER SECTION LINE NORTH 89 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 01 SECOND EAST 1165.00 FEET TO A 5/8 INCH REBAR; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST 187.00 FEET TO A 5/8 INCH REBAR; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 01 SECOND WEST 1165.00 FEET TO THE QUARTER SECTION LINE AND THE CENTERLINE OF COUNTY ROAD 450 WEST; THENCE WITH THE ABOVE MENTIONED QUARTER SECTION LINE AND COUNTY ROAD NORTH 00 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST 187.00 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 5.001 ACRES. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendants: Darrell Lock Jr., Discover Bank c/o Discover Products Inc. and Ashlee Daily This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant whose whereabouts are unknown: Carol N. Mann If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff, FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. By /s/ Matthew S. Love MATTHEW S. LOVE Attorney No. 18762-29 Attorney for Plaintiff MATTHEW S. LOVE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 237-2727 NOTICE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.

NTSB unclear who was at controls in jet crash that killed ex-NASCAR driver Greg Biffle and 6 others

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON
AND JOSH FUNK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STATESVILLE, N.C. — Federal investigators are trying to figure out why a business jet carrying retired NASCAR driver Greg Biffle and six others tried to return to a North Carolina airport just after takeoff but plowed into light poles and a tree line short of the runway, killing everyone on board.

The Cessna C550 erupted into a large fire when it hit the ground Thursday morning, about a third of a mile from the airport's runway. They also don't know who the was the lead pilot. Biffle was one of three people on board with a pilot's license.

The jet had departed

Statesville Regional Airport, about 45 miles north of Charlotte, 10 minutes earlier, but crashed while trying to return and land, authorities said.

Flight records indicate the plane was registered to a company run by Biffle. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board began examining the wreckage on Friday to help determine the cause of the crash and why the plane had returned to the airport in drizzle and cloudy conditions.

Investigators recovered the cockpit voice recorder, which could provide important clues about what happened. They were not aware of any emergency calls from the jet, NTSB member Michael

SEE NTSB/PAGE B6



Matt Kelley

Flowers are displayed at the NC Auto Racing Walk of Fame for Greg Biffle, Friday, Dec. 19, in Mooresville, N.C.

EMPLOYMENT

Hanover College is seeking applications for a Maintenance position. Primary duties include general maintenance, housekeeping and grounds. Responsible for repairs, maintenance projects and general maintenance work as assigned.

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The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners will receive sealed bids at the **Jefferson County Highway Department at 3135 Clifty Drive, Madison IN 47250, until 2:00 P.M.** local time on **January 22, 2026**, for various asphalt paving projects. The documents including specifications are on file for public inspection and may be procured for bidding purposes at the JEFFERSON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 3135 Clifty Drive Madison Indiana 47250.

Bids received after the specified date and time shall be returned unopened. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at **5:00 P.M.** local time on **January 22, 2026**, at the **Troy D Morgan Public Safety Center 620 Green Road Madison Indiana 47250**. No bidder may withdraw their proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of opening. Bids will be opened on live recording via Jefferson County Government YouTube channel.

Bids shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, which may be obtained from the Jefferson County Highway Department. Each bid item shall be marked to correspond with this legal notice and shall be submitted separately. Each bid shall be accompanied by a surety bond or certified check in a sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the total bid. Each bidder shall fill out a non-collusion affidavit as part of their proposal.

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informalities in the bids.

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- Position is cross-trained to offset the workload of the entire office
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- This position is Full Time, Non-Exempt
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- Full Job Description and Application can be found in the Clerk's or Auditor's Offices in the Switzerland County Courthouse or <https://www.in.gov/counties/switzerland/departments-a-e/circuit-court-clerk/>
- Please submit completed applications with resumé to: kd@switzerland.in.gov or in-person to the Circuit Court Clerk (in the Courthouse, 212 W Main Street, Vevay, IN 47043)

Applications must be received by 12:00pm, Friday, December 26, 2025

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COURIERAREASPORTS SHORTS

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Southwestern Middle School girls basketball both picked seventh grade and eighth grade championships in the South Ripley Tournament on Saturday.

Members of the seventh grade team are: Emory Bickers, Lillian Bickers, Michelle Brawner, Annistyn Cloud, Sophia Cutshall, Callie Farmer, Oakley Hatfield, Averie Hubbard and Rilyn Kirkland.

Members of the eighth grade team are: Reece Carlton, Isabella Farmer, Kaylee Garvey, Baylor Hubbard, Kennedy Scroggins, Elena Watson and Kourtney Whalen.

•Southwestern junior varsity boys basketball defeated Clarksville 55-48 Saturday on the road.

Trevor Swalley led the Rebels with 20 points, Turner Trapp had 11 and Mason Wheeler scored eight.

On Friday, Southwestern suffered a 48-47 loss to Jac-Cen-Del on a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Southwestern hosts Corydon on Jan. 3.

•Madison girls jayvee basketball defeated Jennings County 34-32



Submitted

Southwestern’s eighth grade girls basketball team won the South Ripley Tournament on Saturday. Members of the team are (from left): Coach Jeff Garvey, Baylor Hubbard, Kourtney Whalen, Reece Carlton, Elena Watson, Kaylee Garvey, Kennedy Scroggins, Isabella Farmer and Coach Foster Mefford.

at home on Thursday.

Marta Martinez had 10 points for the Cubs and Ava Smith scored eight.

Madison hosts Charlestown Jan. 8.

•Shawe junior varsity boys basketball lost 46-31 at Crothersville on Friday.

Taylor Ralston had nine points for the Hilltoppers, Joe Hart scored

six and Connor Kahn added five.

Shawe travels to Oldenburg Academy Jan. 9.

•Shawe Junior High boys basketball split with Austin on Thursday.

The seventh grade lost 60-8. Connor Ciejkowski had four points for the Hilltoppers.

The eighth grade won 39-25. Patrick Kahn had 23 points and



Submitted

Southwestern’s seventh grade girls basketball team won the South Ripley Tournament on Saturday. Members of the team are (from left): Front — Michelle Brawner, Rilyn Kirkland, Sophia Cutshall, Lilly Bickers and Annistyn Cloud; Back — Averie Hubbard, Oakley Hatfield, Emory Bickers and Callie Farmer.

Tanner Sims and Ayden Dempler each had seven.

Shawe's eighth grade is now 9-7 on the season.

NTSB

FROM PAGE B4

Graham said at a Friday news conference.

There were three pilots on board. Federal Aviation Administration records show Biffle was rated to fly helicopters, and single- and multi-engine planes. Also on board was pilot Dennis Dutton, Dutton's son, Jack — who had a private pilot's license for single-engine planes — and Biffle's friend Craig Wadsworth.

Biffle's wife, Cristina, and children Ryder, 5, and Emma, 14, were also killed in the crash, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol said.

Cristina Biffle's mother told People magazine that her daughter sent her a text message saying, "We're in trouble," before she didn't hear from her again.

Federal investigators on Friday didn't have answers yet about the crew.

Dennis Dutton was licensed and rated to fly this model of plane, but even then, he was supposed to fly with a co-pilot. Even though Biffle was rated to fly a multi-engine plane, he wasn't listed as qualified to fly this particular jet or be a second officer. Dutton's son, Jack, also had a pilot's license but was only rated for single-engine planes.

"There is nobody else that has a second-in-command type rating in the airplane. So there's a question on the crew," aviation safety expert John Cox said.

The plane's speed and altitude fluctuated significantly during the brief flight, and its path was consistent with a flight crew that experienced an issue and needed to return quickly, said former NTSB and FAA crash investigator Jeff Guzzetti.

At one point, the plane quickly soared from 1,800 feet up to 4,000 feet (1,220 meters) before descending again. Just before the crash, it was only a couple of hundred feet off the ground.

"One thing is certain: They were low. They were too low to make a safe landing on that runway," Guzzetti said.

It's unclear why the pilots didn't make an emergency call, but their top priorities are flying the plane and figuring out where to land — not radioing for help. It's possible they were too busy trying to control the plane and dealing with the problem. But Cox said it's also possible that the problem they encountered wasn't considered an emergency. And the pilots may not have made it a priority to make a radio call with no tower or firefighters at the airport.

Biffle, 55, won more than 50 races

across NASCAR's three circuits, including 19 at the Cup Series level. He also won the Trucks Series championship in 2000 and the Xfinity Series title in 2002.

In 2024, Biffle was honored for his humanitarian efforts after Hurricane Helene struck the U.S., even using his personal helicopter to deliver aid to flooded, remote western North Carolina.

A memorial with flowers sprouted up Friday by Biffle's marble star in his hometown of Mooresville, honoring him as a member of the North Carolina Auto Racing Hall of Fame.

Steve Miller dropped by to pay his respects. He met Biffle at a huge party after he was inducted in October. He told Biffle he hoped the racecar driver could help knock an item off his bucket list — taking a flight in a helicopter.

"Come knock on my door, I'll take you up," Miller recalled Biffle telling

him. "Never happened."

Cessna Citations like the one that crashed Thursday are known as reliable, easy-to-fly jets. While the plane is in flight, one pilot is at the controls while the other pilot is the monitoring pilot, Cox said.

Roughly 1,000 of these 550 series jets have been made, and they have a very good safety record. "What accidents have occurred in this type were mostly due to very poor pilot decisions," Guzzetti said.

The Statesville airport will remain closed at least through Saturday as the NTSB performs its investigation, officials said.

Funk reported from Omaha, Nebraska. Associated Press writers Allen G. Breed; Jenna Fryer in Charlotte, North Carolina; and Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina, contributed to this story.

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